

**C2ER THE COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH - From the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)**  
**Year-End Review of Three Quarters in 2008**  
**National Average for 322 Urban Areas = 100**  
**(Comparing the Houston, Texas and its lower cost-of-living rating to the 1 – 10<sup>th</sup> Ranked Most Expensive Urban Areas)**

RANK	URBAN AREAS	100 % Composite Index	12..4 9% Grocery Items	29.18% Housing	9.98% Utilities	11.10% Transportation	4.06% Healthcare	33.19% Miscellaneous Goods & Services
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	219.8	142.4	409.6	167.3	120.2	132.6	141.8
2	San Francisco CA	172.1	128.6	292.9	98.6	113.4	120.3	130.5
3	Honolulu HI	162.8	155.8	252.5	134.4	116.5	111.4	116.8
4	New York (Queens) NY	156.0	130.1	232.0	146.3	110.0	106.3	123.4
5	San Jose, CA	156.0	138.9	249.5	113.5	114.2	119.3	111.3
6	Orange County CA	151.4	111.6	264.6	88.1	110.7	112.5	104.3
7	Nassau County, NY	151.4	115.1	232.7	140.5	107.4	116.2	115.8
8	Stamford, CT	149.0	114.6	220.7	134.8	113.1	115.9	119.1
9	Oakland, CA	147.9	128.6	224.5	89.4	111.7	119.1	120.9
10	Los Angeles-Long Beach CA	147.7	111.2	250.8	89.0	112.8	108.3	104.8
N/A	Houston –Sugar Land–Baytown TX (Metro) Houston, TX	90.7	85.7	75.8	103.8	98.9	100.2	97.9

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**Year-End Review of Three Quarters in 2008 (Extract from Press Release) National Average for 322 Urban Areas = 100**  
**(Comparing the Houston, Texas and its lower cost-of-living rating to the 1 – 10<sup>th</sup> Ranked Most Expensive Urban Areas)**

RANKING	URBAN AREAS	COL INDEX (100% COMPOSITE)
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	219.8
2	San Francisco CA	172.1
3	Honolulu HI	162.8
4	New York (Queens) NY	156.0
5	San Jose, CA	156.0
6	Orange County CA	151.4
7	Nassau County, NY	151.4
8	Stamford, CT	149.0
9	Oakland CA	147.9
10	Los Angeles-Long Beach CA	147.1
N/A	Houston –Sugar Land–Baytown TX (Metro) Houston, TX	90.7

**COST-OF-LIVING IN HOUSTON, TEXAS COMPARED TO SOME OTHER MAJOR TEXAS CITIES**  
**FROM C2ER THE COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH - ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)**  
**Derived from: Year-End Review of Three Quarters in 2008 & its National Average for 322 Urban Areas = 100**

Metro/Micro	URBAN AREAS	100 % Composite Index	12..4 9% Grocery Items	29.18% Housing	9.98% Utilities	11.10% Transportation	4.06% Healthcare	33.19% Miscellaneous Goods & Services
Austin-Round Rock TX	Austin TX	95.5	92.5	84.9	88.4	98.0	96.5	107.2
Dallas-Plano-Irving TX	Dallas TX	92.1	99.8	70.8	105.3	102.9	104.3	98.9
El Paso TX	El Paso TX	92.5	109.2	85.7	94.4	96.7	95.3	89.9
San Antonio TX	San Antonio TX	95.6	82.8	87.8	88.1	99.5	107.3	106.7
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown TX	Houston TX	90.7	85.7	75.8	103.8	98.9	100.2	97.9

Texas cities frequently rate among the least expensive in the index and prices are often below the national average for items found in the grocery store.

The ACCRA Cost of Living Index measures differences in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top quintile. It is based on more than 50,000 prices covering 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations or university applied economic centers in each participating urban area. Small difference should not be interpreted as showing a measurable difference.

*The composite index is based on six components – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.*

Visit [www.coli.org](http://www.coli.org) to Compare Affordable Houston Cost of Living to COL in Other Major Metropolitan Areas/Cities